

<b>Maricopa County Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>Subject:</b> Prohibition of Weapons	Number: A2228 Issue Date: 12/96
<b>Approved: David R. Smith</b>	<b>Initiating Department:</b> Protective Services	

**A. PURPOSE**

To safeguard employees and visitors from injury due to deadly weapons on Maricopa County property.

**B. POLICY**

Deadly weapons are prohibited on any county owned/leased property or at a county-sponsored event.

Approved gun lockers have been installed in most county buildings.

Gun lockers will be installed in other county buildings as the need arises.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Director of Protective Services.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

Deadly Weapon means anything designed for lethal use. The term includes firearm. (ARS §13-3101)

County Facility means any structure or land owned or leased by Maricopa County, including the location of any county-sponsored event.

**D. AUTHORITY**

ARS §13-3102(A)(10)

The county, as the “owner of an establishment,” is authorized to request removal of a weapon or surrender of the weapon for safekeeping.

**E. APPLICATION OF POLICY**

Employees, guests, citizens, contractors, vendors and all other visitors to county facilities are prohibited from bringing any deadly weapons on or into a county facility.

Exemptions to this policy are granted to the Maricopa County Attorney, Maricopa County Sheriff and their designated staffs, peace officers or persons summoned by a peace officer while in the performance of official duties; members of the U.S. Armed Forces in the performance of official duties; authorized County Protective Services personnel; and housing residents while occupying Maricopa County Housing Authority property.

Individual exemptions may be granted for unique circumstances upon written request and approval of the Maricopa County Facilities and Equipment Management Director or assigned Protective Services Director.

A concealed weapons permit issued pursuant to ARS §13-3112 is **not** "specific authorization by law" to enter county property with a concealed weapon.

Violation of this policy by any employee shall result in appropriate disciplinary action. Violations may be prosecuted as weapons misconduct, a Class 1 misdemeanor, against any violator, including employees.

#### **F. PROCEDURE**

All county employees shall be made aware of this policy and a copy of the policy shall be prominently posted on employee bulletin boards.

A copy of this policy will be made available to any person upon written or verbal request.

A sign shall be posted at public entrances to county facilities, stating at minimum "*No Weapons Allowed.*"

Facilities and Equipment Management Department shall assist departments in complying with the posting requirements by designing and installing signs at entrances to county facilities.

Any employee observing a citizen, visitor(s), contractor, vendor, or others possessing a deadly weapon shall report that fact to Protective Services personnel or a supervisor, if Protective Services personnel are not available. This person shall then request the bearer of the weapon to either remove the weapon from the premises or surrender it to the custody of Maricopa County. If the bearer elects the latter, he/she shall be accompanied to the location of the storage units for the purposes of surrendering the weapon for later retrieval.

No employee, except those with peace officer status or Maricopa County Protective Services personnel, shall attempt to physically detain, or attempt to detain, a person with a weapon or handle a weapon belonging to another. Any conflict or disagreement concerning a weapon shall be referred to assigned Protective Services personnel or local law enforcement officials.